

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA(NESA):CDR SICK:RJW

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

NEA/ARP:GQLUMSDEN, JR.

DOD/DA:LTC WYATT

DOD/DSAA:DGRAND PRE

DOD/ISA(SA) COL. KELLY

DOD/IDA(NESA):GEN SUMNER

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TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS: KU

SUBJECT: FMS: HAWK/CROTALE COMPETITION

REF: (A) KUWAIT 3419 (B) KUWAIT 3420 (C) DALO-ILS-D 0218472

AUG 73

1. NEWS ITEM BY MICHAEL GETLER IN SEPTEMBER 14 WASHINGTON POST, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP BY REUTERS, DOES NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT POSITION OF DOD OR USG. SOURCE OF STORY IS UNKNOWN AND WAS NOT RPT NOT AUTHORIZED SPOKESMAN.

2. USG DOES NOT CONSIDER CROTALE MISSILE TO BE IN COMPETITION WITH IHAWK. CROTALE MISSILE SYSTEM IS BEING CONSIDERED ALONG WITH NUMBER OF OTHER SYSTEMS TO MEET SPECIFIC MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. AS INDICATED PARA 1 REF A, CROTALE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION PARTICULARLY FOR

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EMPLOYMENT AS POINT DEFENSE WEAPON IN RUGGED, HIGHLY

COMPARTMENTALIZED TERRAIN. IN SUCH ENVIRONMENT, CROTALE IS EXCELLENT SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THESE CONDITIONS DO NOT PERTAIN TO KUWAIT, AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE KUWAITI AREA DEFENSE NEEDS MORE ADEQUATELY MET BY IHAWK.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CAPABILITIES OF TWO SYSTEMS, YOU MAY INFORM SHAYKH SAAD - THAT ENGAGEMENT RANGE OF IHAWK IS APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES THAT OF CROTALE, AND MAXIMUM ENGAGEMENT ALTITUDE OF IHAWK IS APPROXIMATELY THREE TIMES THAT OF CROTALE. GIVEN RELATIVELY FLAT TERRAIN IN KUWAIT, BOTH OF THESE CAPABILITIES ARE HIGHLY PERTINENT.

4. FYI. WE ARE UNABLE PROVIDE KUWAITIS COMPARATIVE FIGURES ON CROTALE SYSTEM WITHOUT FRENCH CONSENT. HOWEVER, RANGE AND ALTITUDE CAPABILITIES MENTIONED ABOVE ARE AS FOLLOWS: MAX RANGE CROTALE 9.5 KM; MIN RANGE ABOUT 500M; MAX ALT APPROX 6 KM. END FYI. FOR IHAWK: MAX RANGE APPROX 40 KM; MIN RANGE APPROX 2.5 KM; MAX ALT APPROX

18 KM; MIN ENGAGEMENT RANGE FOR IHAWK IS A FUNCTION OF SAFETY DISTANCE FOR WARHEAD DETONATION; MIN ENGAGEMENT ALTITUDE INSIDE RADAR HORIZON IS VIRTUALLY ZERO FEET. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE THAT USG TESTS OF CROTALE SYSTEM IN NO SENSE REPRESENT COMPETITION BETWEEN IHAWK AND CROTALE. IN CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTS TWO SYSTEMS MAY BE COMPLEMENTARY. HOWEVER, FOR KUWAITIS' PURPOSES, IHAWK CAPABILITIES APPEAR TO RESPOND MORE ADEQUATELY TO DEFENSE NEEDS. RUSH

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